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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Thirty-first session
6-23 July 2004

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session.

Annotations

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 9 of the rules of procedure provides that the first substantive item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. Rule 7 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention.

At its thirtieth session the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its thirty-first session.

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Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/2004/II/1)

Item 3
Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the Committee

Under this item, the Chairperson will brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

Item 4
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and other progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee requests.

At its thirtieth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite eight States parties to present their reports. Eight States parties agreed to this request.

At its thirty-first session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Angola (CEDAW/C/AGO/1-3); the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Latvia (CEDAW/C/LVA/1-3); the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Malta (CEDAW/C/MLT/1-3); the combined second and third periodic report and the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Equatorial Guinea (CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3) and (CEDAW/C/GNQ/4-5); the fifth periodic report of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/5); the fifth periodic report of Dominican Republic (CEDAW/C/DOM/5); the fifth periodic report of Spain (CEDAW/C/ESP/5); and the follow-up report to the fifth periodic report of Argentina (CEDAW/C/ARG/5/Add.1).

Rule 51 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of the State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the reports. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-first session.

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that, at each session, the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. At its thirty-first session the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of

the submission of the reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2004/II/2).

A pre-session working group of the Committee is convened before each session to prepare a list of issues and questions relating to periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports are to be considered. The pre-session working group for the thirty-first session met in New York from 3 to 5 February 2004. The report of the pre-session working group and the responses of States parties to the lists of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group will be before the Committee (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/II/CRP.1 and 2 and addenda).

Documentation

Combined initial, second, and third periodic report of Angola (CEDAW/C/AGO/1-3)

Combined initial, second and third periodic report of Latvia (CEDAW/C/LVA/1-3)

Combined initial, second and third periodic report of Malta (CEDAW/C/MLT/1-3)

Combined second and third periodic report and combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Equatorial Guinea (CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3) and (CEDAW/C/GNQ/4-5)

Fifth periodic report of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/5)

Fifth periodic report of Dominican Republic (CEDAW/C/DOM/5)

Fifth periodic report of Spain (CEDAW/C/ESP/5)

Follow-up report to the fifth periodic report of Argentina (CEDAW/C/ARG/5/Add.1)

Report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/II/CRP.1 and Add.1 (Bangladesh), Add.2 (Dominican Republic), Add.3 (Equatorial Guinea), and Add.4 (Spain))

Responses to list of issues (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/II/CRP.2 (Bangladesh) and Add.1 (Dominican Republic), Add.2 (Equatorial Guinea), and Add.3 (Spain))

Item 5
Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties.

Under this agenda item, the Committee provides opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee, in plenary, information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the

Convention in those areas. At its thirty-first session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/2004/II/3 and addenda).

At its thirtieth session, the Committee agreed that the next general recommendation would be on article 2 of the Convention and work thereon would commence at the thirty-first session. Accordingly, the Committee will initiate the first stage of the process and hold a general discussion and exchange of views on the subject of the proposed general recommendation with specialized agencies and United Nations bodies and with non-governmental organizations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/2004/II/3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/2004/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/2004/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/2004/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/2004/II/Add.4)

Item 6
Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

Before each session, the Secretariat prepares a pre-session report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or information on developments elsewhere in the human rights regime (CEDAW/C/2004/II/4).

Upon the invitation of the Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), financially supported by the Netherlands Government, the Committee will hold an informal meeting from 5 to 7 May 2004 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The Committee's working methods will be the main focus of the meeting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, including recommendations emanating from the informal meeting in Utrecht (CEDAW/C/2004/II/4)

Item 7
Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Following the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention in December 2000, the Committee established the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol. The Working Group will hold its fourth session from 30 June to 2 July 2004. The Committee will consider the report of the Working Group on its fourth session.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol (CEDAW/C/2004/II/WGCOP/L.1)

Item 8
Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee

Item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
Tuesday, 6 July 2004 **648th meeting**		
10-11.30 a.m.	**1**	Opening of the session
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the Committee
	4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: report of the pre-session working group
	5	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: introductory statement
	6	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee: introductory statement
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)		Informal meeting with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies
3-4.30 p.m.		Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations
4.30-6 p.m. (closed)	**5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 7 July 2004 **649th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**4** (*continued*)	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention
		Spain, fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ESP/5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
650th meeting		
3-5 p.m.	**4** (*continued*)	Spain (*continued*)
5-6 p.m. (closed)	**4** (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Thursday, 8 July 2004 **651st meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**4** (*continued*)	Equatorial Guinea, combined second and third periodic report and combined fourth and fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3 and CEDAW/C/GNQ/4-5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
652nd meeting		
3-5 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Equatorial Guinea (*continued*)
5-6 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 9 July 2004		
653rd meeting		
10-10.30 a.m.	4 (*continued*)	Bangladesh, fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/BGD/5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
654th meeting		
3-5 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Bangladesh (*continued*)
5-6 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Monday, 12 July 2004		
655th meeting		
10-10.30 a.m.(closed)	4 (*continued*)	Angola, combined initial second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/AGO/1-3)
10.30-11.15 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.15 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
656th meeting		
3-4.30 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Angola (*continued*)
4.30-6 p.m.		Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations
Tuesday, 13 July 2004		
657th meeting		
10-10.30 a.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Malta, combined initial, second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/MLT/1-3)
10.30-11.15 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.15 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
658th meeting		
3-4.30 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Malta (*continued*)
4.30-6 p.m. (closed)	7 (*continued*)	Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention
Wednesday, 14 July 2004		
659th meeting		
10-10.30 a.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Latvia, combined initial, second and third periodic report (CEDAW/C/LVA/1-3)
10.30-11.15 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
11.15 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
660th meeting		
3-4.30 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Latvia (*continued*)
4.30-6 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Thursday, 15 July 2004		
661st meeting		
10-10.30 a.m.	4 (*continued*)	Dominican Republic, fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/DOM/5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
662nd meeting		
3-5 p.m.	4	Dominican Republic (*continued*)
5-6 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 16 July 2004		
663rd meeting		
10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Argentina, follow-up report to the fifth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ARG/5/Add.1)
12.30-1 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
3-5 p.m.	4	Replies (Angola)
5-6 p.m.	4	Working Group of the Whole
Monday, 19 July 2004		
664th meeting		
10 a.m.-12 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Replies (Latvia)
12-1 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
665th meeting		
3-5 p.m.	4 (*continued*)	Replies (Malta)
5-6 p.m. (closed)	4 (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Tuesday, 20 July 2004		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)	7 (*continued*)	Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
3-6 p.m.	4	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 21 July 2004		
666th meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	5 (*continued*)	Discussion on general recommendations on article 2 of the Convention with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
3-6 p.m. (closed)	**4**	Working Group of the Whole
Thursday, 22 July 2004		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)	**6** (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
3-6 p.m. (closed)	**4** (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 23 July 2004		
10 a.m. (closed)	**4** (*continued*)	Working Group of the Whole
667th meeting		
3-4 p.m. (closed)	**5 and 6** (*continued*)	Adoption of the report of the Working Group as a whole
4-6 p.m.	**8**	Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session
	9	Adoption of the report of the Committee on the thirty-first session